

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 STR-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 SP-02

CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-06 ARAE-00

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P 261651Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6877

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MX, CU, ESTC, CPAS

SUBJ: TRADE WITH CUBA

1. AP CORRESPONDENT CALLED VARIOUS EMBASSY OFFICERS MARCH 24 AND 25 TO ASK ABOUT PROCEDURES FOR MEXICO TO SELL TO CUBA U.S. AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURED IN MEXICO. INQUIRY WAS NO DOUBT INSPIRED BY NUMBER OF STORIES IN LOCAL PRESS REPORTING SUCCESS OF MEXICAN TRADE FAIR CURRENTLY TAKING PLACE IN HAVANA.

2. AP CORRESPONDENT ASKED IF SPECIAL PERMISSION WOULD BE NEEDED TO SHIP AUTOMOBILES MANUFACTURED HERE BY SUBSIDIARIES OF U.S. FIRMS. WHEN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID PERMITS WOULD BE NEEDED FROM TREASURY AND COMMERCE, CORRESPONDENT ASKED, "WILL DEPARTMENT OF STATE CAPITULATE AS IT DID IN CASE OF ARGENTINA?" EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID HE COULD NOT COMMENT ON THIS POINT.

3. AP CORRESPONDENT SAID HE HAD FOUND "INTERESTING"
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FACT THAT SEVERAL AUTOMOBILE COMPANIES HAD BEEN SHOWING AT HAVANA FAIR. HE ALSO HAD CALLED LEGAL

OFFICE OF FORD COMPANY HERE TO ASK SIMILAR QUESTIONS
AND SAID HE WAS TOLD THAT FORD "OPERATES UNDER MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT STATUTES AND WOULD DO WHAT THE MEXICAN
GOVERNMENT WANTS."

4. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE REPORT ON OVERALL RESULTS
OF TRADE FAIR AS SOON AS MORE HARD INFORMATION IS
AVAILABLE.

5. WE ARE UNABLE ANTICIPATE HOW BIG A PUBLIC ISSUE
U.S.-CUBA TRADE RESTRICTIONS MIGHT BECOME. IN OUR
VIEW, MUCH DEPENDS ON WHAT GOM WANTS TO MAKE OF IT
AND HOW IT READS USG INTENTIONS.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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